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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE EDITORIAL DEMANDS FIRM

STAND ON U.S. IN AZORES

1. SUMMAREY: FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN LEADING DAILY
CALLS FOR GOP TO TAKE VIGILANT AND FIRM STAND IN AZORES
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. EDITORIAL STRESSES INEQUALITY OF
PAST BENEFITS FOR U.S. AND LIABILITIES FOR PORTUGAL.
END SUMMARY

2. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 17 PRO-GOVERNMENT
DIARIO DE NOTICIAS BEGINS WITH HISTORY OF LAJES BASE
FROM BRITISH BEGINNINGS DURING WW II THROUGH U.S.
EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION. EDITORIAL SYAS U.S. TENURE
AT BASE COVERED BY SUCCEEDING AGREEMENTS UNTIL
OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN WARS AND CONSEQUENT RAPID
DETERIORATION IN 1962 OF U.S.-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS,
PARTICULARLY IN UN. NOTING CURRENT AGREEMENT DUE TO
EXPIRE FEBRUARY 4, 1974 ARTICLE CALLS FOR WEIGHING
OF BENEFITS AND LIABILITIES ACCRUING TO BOTH PARTIES

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AS RESULT OF U.S. TENURE IN AZORES.

3. U.S. HAS BENEFITTED, ARTICLE STATES, FROM USE OF BASE AS ADVANCED LINE OF U.S. CONTINENTAL DEFENSE, AND AS INVALUABLE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT BASE FOR FLIGHTS TO EUROPE AND MIDEAST. NOTING LOSS OF SOME U.S. BASES AND RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON OTHERS IN EMERGENCIES, EDITORIAL SAID YOM KIPPUR WAR BROUGHT BITTER REVELATION FOR U.S.: WITHOUT AZORES IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR U.S. TO PROVIDE ISRAEL MILITARY ASSISTANCE IT SO URGENTLY NEEDED. EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "WE HAVE AMPLE REASON TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATIONS IN THE ISLANDS TO BE A MOST IMPORTANT - IF NOT INDISPENSABLE - ELEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES OF THE PENTAGON."

4. TURNING TO BENEFITS ACCRUING TO PORTUGAL, ARTICLE SAYS PORTUGAL RECEIVED NEARLY NOTHING OVER THE YEARS. SALAZAR DID NOT BELIEVE THAT BASE RIGHTS SHOULD BE IN RETURN FOR PAYMENT, SHOWING THE SAME INDEPENDENCE OF SPIRIT WHICH LED PORTUGAL TO REFUSE THE MARSHALL PLAN. SAYING PRESENT ACCORD BRINGS PORTUGAL LITTLE, EDITORIAL LISTS COMPONENTS, (LUMPING PL 480 IN WITH EXIM TO ARRIVE AT "LOANS UP TO \$430 MILLION"). RECALLING PRIMIN'S 1971 SPEECH THAT PORTUGAL WOULD NEVER MORTGAGE SELF TO FOREIGN POWER AND NOT IN NEED OF MONEY, ARTICLE SAID U.S. CREDIT OFFER IS "SOMETHING LESS THAN THEORETICAL."

5. TAKING UP THE DISADVANTAGES FOR PORTUGAL OF U.S. OCCUPATION OF BASE, EDITORIAL SAID IT NOT NECESSARY TO THEORIZE: U.S. NEED FOR AZORES IN MIDEAST WAR HAS BROUGHT PORTUGAL ONLY THE HOSTILITY AND SANCTIONS OF ARAB OIL PRODUCERS -- ALL FOR A COUNTRY PORTUGAL HAS NEVER RECOGNIZED AND WHICH HAD STOOD OUT IN UNFRIENDLINESS TOWARD PORTUGAL.

6. CONCLUDING, ARTICLE SAID GRAVE RISKS HAVE BEEN RUN, WHICH WEIGH ON THE "EXCELLENT RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH WE HAVE MAINTAINED -- AND WHICH WE WISH TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN -- WITH THE U.S. AND ITS PEOPLE." IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE IMPRUDENT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THESE QUESTIONS OR TO FORGET THE LESSON OF THIRTY YEARS WHEN CONSIDERING RENEWAL OF AN ACCORD "WITH SO FEW ADVANTAGES FOR PORTUGAL. WE ARE CONFIDENT IN THE FIRM AND VIGILANT ACTION OF OUR GOVERNMENT."

7. COMMENT: FROM ITS STYLE AND CAREFUL ATTENTION TO DETAIL WE CONCLUDE THAT EDITORIAL ORIGINATED WITH OR WAS APPROVED BY UPPER LEVELS GOP, POSSIBLY EVEN FONMIN OR PRIMIN. CLEARLY A NEGOTIATING PLOY VIA

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, EDITORIAL APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED
BOTH TO MOBILIZE OPINION BEHIND GOVERNMENT AND TO
IMPROVE GOP NEGOTIATING POSITION BY BUILDING CASE
THAT PUBLIC OPINION DEMANDS VERY SUBSTANTIAL U.S.
COMPENSATION FOR CONTINUED TENURE IN AZORES. FULL
TEXT BEING POUCHED TO EUR/IB.
SCOTT

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